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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,005	11/14/2001	Hui Ge	4239-60893	7848

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KLARQUIST SPARKMAN
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER, SUITE 1600
121 S.W. SALMON STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97204-2988

EXAMINER

LAM, ANN Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1641

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	GE, HUI
Examiner	Art Unit
Ann Y. Lam	1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) 1-42 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Group I. Claims 1-9 and 41, drawn to a protein interaction assay.

Group II. Claims 10-12, drawn to an assay to determine polypeptide-binding of a probe molecule.

Group III. Claims 13-23, drawn to a universal protein array.

Group IV. Claims 24-32, drawn to a kit.

Group V. Claims 33-35, drawn to a method of analysis of protein-molecule interactions.

Group VI. Claims 36-40 and 42, drawn to a method of analyzing a plurality of binding characteristics of an array of polypeptide samples.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

the technical feature linking groups I-VI appears to be that they all relate to a polypeptide array.

However, Renschler et al., 5,512,435, teaches a polypeptide array (column 17, line 52.)

Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of groups I-VI does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

The special technical feature of Group I is considered to be a method comprising the step of contacting an array of target polypeptide molecules associated with a solid support with a detectable probe molecule and detecting binding.

The special technical feature of Group II is considered to be a method comprising the steps of contacting labeled sample with an array of target polypeptides associated with a solid support, separating unbound labeled probe from the array and detecting the binding.

The special technical feature of Group III is considered to be an array comprising a plurality of polypeptide samples on a solid support, wherein the samples are immobilized on the solid support in an addressable pattern.

The special technical feature of Group IV is considered to be a kit comprising a polypeptide array and instructions.

The special technical feature of Group V is considered to be a method comprising the steps of obtaining a plurality of different pure protein specimens, placing a sample of each specimen in a discrete addressable location on an array and probing the array with a detectable probe molecule.

The special technical feature of Group VI is considered to be a method comprising the steps of providing an array comprising different polypeptide samples,

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exposing the protein array to a first probe, detecting a first binding pattern of the first probe, and exposing the protein array to a second probe to identify samples to which the second probe binds.

Accordingly, Groups I-VI are not so linked by the same or a corresponding special technical feature as to form a single general inventive concept.

A telephone call was made to Tanya Harding on May 10, 2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

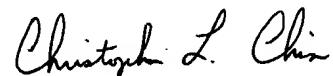
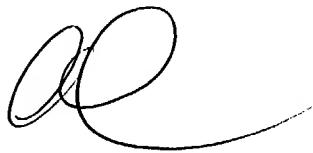
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann Y. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-0822. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Sat 11-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A.L.



CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800/1641